(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the concrete and plaster of a number of columns have given way, considerably weakening the supporting pillars and the traffic load is on the remaining columns thereby endangering the flyover;

(c) if so, when was the bad condition of the flyover known to the railway authorities;

(d) what steps have been taken to strengthen the affected columns to save the flyover from total collapse; and

(e) if the reply to part (d) above be in the negative, what are the reasons for delay in taking up the repairing work?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Yes, Sir, only in respect of the bridge proper. Responsibility for the maintenance of bridge approaches rests with the Municipal Corporation Delhi.

(b) Some damage to the columns has occurred, but the safety of the flyover is not endangered.

(c) In August, '89.

(d) The Railway has taken up repairs of the affected portion of the bridge.

(e) Does not arise, in view of reply to part (d) above.

Display of goods being supplied through Fair Price Shops

1357. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the items being supplied through fair price shops;

(b) whether the fair price shops display the details of all items being supplied;

(c) if so, in what manner Government check the violation of the instruction and underhand dealings by the fair price shops owners; and

(d) whether Government propose to issue instructions to fair price shops to display the detailed list for publication?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA): (a) Rice, wheat, levy sugar, imported edible oils, soft coke, kerosene and controlled cloth are allocated by the Central Government to States/UTs for supply through public distribution system outlets. Some of the States have included on their own, additional items such as pulses, tea, salt, soap, matches, coarse grains, etc. for distribution through fair price shops.

(b) to (d) Implementation of the PDS lies with the State Governments/U.T. Administrations. They have been advised from time to time that the orders relating to display of prices and stocks etc., should be strictly enforced. Some of the measures adopted to check violations of instructions, underhand dealings etc. are frequent inspection of the fair price shops, taking of appropriate action against erring fair price shop holders under the terms of the licence, strict enforcement of the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act and other similar legislations etc. State/UTs have also been advised to set up Consumer Advisory/Vigilance Committee at various levels including fair price shops level to oversee the functioning of the public distribution system.

Protection of domestic child labour

1358. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Child Labourers are employed as domestic servants and are exploited, harrassed and tortured by their employer in the event of revolt by these child labourers;

(b) if so, what protection has been provided to them by Government; and